

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 11473 230803Z
ACTION EA-12

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UNCLAS TOKYO 11473

FOR S/IL AND EA/RA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, JA
SUBJECT: INVITATION FROM JAPANESE MUNICIPAL TRANSPORT
WORKERS TO ATU

1. PLEASE INFORM AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR ERNIE LEE AND BRAC VICE PRESIDENT OTERO ON URGENT BASIS THAT MUNICIPAL TRANSPORT WORKERS (TOSHI KOTSU) OFFICERS ARE MOST UPSET BY RECEIPT OF CABLE YESTERDAY FROM AMALGAMATED TRANSPORT UNION PRESIDENT MARONEY STATING THAT HE MUST SUDDENLY CANCEL HIS APPEARANCE AT TOSHI KOTSU CONVENTION JULY 8-19. ACCORDING TO TOSHI KOTSU ASST SEC GEN USHIKOBABA (WHO CALLED AT EMB THIS MORNING TO INQUIRE WHETHER WE COULD BE OF HELP), INVITATION TO ATU PRESIDENT REPRESENTED FIRST TIME THAT TOSHI KOTSU HAD ASKED FOREIGN UNION LEADER TO APPEAR AT ITS CONVENTION. MOREOVER, THIS INVITATION WAS IN PART INTENDED TO DEMONSTRATE TO OTHER SOHYO UNIONS DETERMINATION OF ICFTU-AFFILIATED TOSHI KOTSU TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH ITS AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS. TO INCREASE SIGNIFICANCE OF VISIT, TOSHI KOTSU HAD ARRANGED FOR MARONEY, IN ADDITION TO CONVENTION APPEARANCE, TO CALL ON SOCIALIST-BACKED MAYOR OF OSAKA AND TO MEET WITH ITS PRINCIPAL AFFILIATES IN TOKYO AND OSAKA.

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2. USHIKOBABA SAID THAT IF MARONEY PERSONALLY UNABLE TO ATTEND, TOSHI KOTSU WOULD BE HAPPY TO WELCOME OTHER ATU OFFICER DESIGNATED BY HIM.

3. COMMENT: WHILE USHIKOBABA DID NOT SAY SO EXPLICITLY, WE WERE LEFT WITH STRONG IMPRESSION THAT TOSHI KOTSU

SECGEN KUBO'S FACE IS AT STAKE IN THIS INVITATION QUESTION. HE HAS BEEN ONE OF MOST OUTSPOKEN ADVOCATES WITHIN SOHYO OF CLOSER CONNECTIONS WITH AFL-CIO AFFILIATES AND, AS THOSE INVOLVED IN LAST YEAR'S LABOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM MAY RECALL, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANIZING (AND OF COURSE PARTICIPATED IN) TEAM OF GENERAL SECRETARIES OF SOHYO'S PUBLIC SERVICE UNION AFFILIATES. THEREFORE, IN VIEW OF OTHER PENDING DEVELOPMENTS VIS-A-VIS SOHYO, WE HOPE THAT LEE AND OTERO CAN ENCOURAGE ATU TO SEND DELEGATES TO CONVENTION.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: SINCE TOSHI KOTSU MUST CANCEL DOMESTIC RESERVATIONS AND INFORM AFFILIATES BY END OF NEXT WEEK IF NO AMERICAN DELEGATE IS ABLE TO ATTEND CONVENTION, PLEASE ADVISE US OF ATU'S DECISION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. MANSFIELD

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